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BY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (8 Feb 68) FOR OT RD-674195

13 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st
Battalion, 30th Artillery, Period Ending 31 October 1967(U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from Lessons Learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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MAR 4 1968

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BATTALION 30TH ARTILLERY
APO 96238

AVGK-AE-C

5 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967

TO: See Distribution

SECTION I (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION OR UNIT ACTIVITIES.

1. (C) General.

a. The 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery continued to support Free World Military Assistance Forces in the I and II Corps Tactical Zones in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 1 August 1967 to 31 October 1967.

b. The battalion, with its three organic firing batteries and Battery C 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery attached, was under operational control of the 1st Air Cavalry Division for most of the reporting period. Battery C, 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery departed from the PERSHING AO on 16 September 1967 and was placed under operational control of the 6th Battalion, 32nd Artillery. The battery was further assigned the mission of reinforcing the 3rd Battalion, 319th Artillery in support of the 173d Airborne Brigade in Operation BOLLING. Operational control of the 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery reverted to the 41st Artillery Group on 30 September 1967 with the mission of reinforcing the 1st Air Cavalry Division Artillery. Battery A, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery departed from the PERSHING Area of Operation (AO) on 17 October 1967 and was placed under operational control of the Americal Division. The unit was further placed under operational control of the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery in support of the 3d Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division. The battalion expended 112,987 rounds and received credit for 55 NVA/VC confirmed K/A's during the past three months.

c. Throughout the period, the battalion continued its additional mission of providing the fire support coordination center for the LZ English-Dog complex.

d. The battalion received five Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computers (FADAC) on 12 August 1967 and became one of the first units in the II Corps Tactical Zone to employ this equipment for computation of firing data. The FADAC equipment has been used to compute 6473 of the 9778 missions fired from 14 August thru 31 October. A complete manual and graphical capability was retained and exercised.

2. (C) Intelligence. Daily liaison visits were made to the following agencies in this area for the purpose of gaining intelligence, coordinating observation, and reporting results of surveillance:

a. 1st Air Cavalry Division Artillery.

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Group 4

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b. 1st Air Cavalry Division G-2.

c. 22nd ARVN Division.

d. 40th ARVN Regiment.

3. (C) Operation and Training Activities.

a. General. The 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery and attached units conducted tactical operations in support of Free World Military Assistance Forces during the entire period.

b. Headquarters Battery. The battery remained at LZ English (BS884007) throughout the reporting period.

c. Service Battery. Service Battery supported the battalion from Camp Townes (BR972252). A forward supply and ammunition element was maintained at LZ English (BS884007).

d. Battery A.

(1) Battery A was located at LZ Sandra (BS800191) during August and September 1967 and provided general support reinforcing fires to the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery, and the 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery.

(2) With the beginning of the monsoon season, LZ Sandra, which is located on a mountainous plateau (EL 710 meters) overlooking the An Lao Valley, became difficult to resupply because of poor visibility and heavy rains. On 7 October 1967, Battery A heli-lifted from LZ Sandra to LZ English (BR884000) with a mission of general support reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery. The battery deployed by road to LZ Crystal (BR892661) on 8 October 1967 and retained the same mission.

(3) The battery displaced by vehicle to Qui Nhon on 16 October 1967 and embarked aboard an LST which departed for Chu Lai on 17 October 1967. The unit debarked on 18 October and marched by road to LZ Baldy (BT135452) the same day. On 19 October, Battery A was heli-lifted from LZ Baldy to their present location at LZ Ross (BT026342) where they are under the operational control of the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery.

(4) This unit expended 28,546 rounds and received credit for 24.5 confirmed NVA/VC KIA's during the reporting period.

e. Battery B.

(1) Battery B heli-lifted from LZ Crystal (BR892661) to Ba To (BS 558326) on 2 August 1967. The unit established the initial fire base in the I Corps Tactical Zone during the 1st Air Cavalry Division's expansion to the north. The battery remained in the I CTZ providing reinforcing fires to the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery until 27 August 1967. The battery's ammunition and supply sections remained at LZ Montezuma (BS813385) where rations, ammunition, and supplies were provided by Task Force Oregon and heli-lifted to the battery position. On 27 August 1967, Battery B redeployed into the II Corps Tactical Zone by helicopter

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with the 3d Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division in a successful effort to increase the security on the Bong Son Plain in preparation for the national elections in September. On 1 September 1967, Battery B expended 1058 rounds in a 12 hour period to interdict the deployment of NVA/VC forces prior to elections and support maneuver forces in contact. The battery was located at LZ English (BS880006) in a general support reinforcing role to the 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery until 17 September 1967.

(3) The unit marched by vehicle to LZ Ollie (BR912848) on 17 September 1967 where it remained for the rest of the period with the same tactical mission. From 1 August 1967 to 31 October 1967, Battery B expended 30,599 rounds and received credit for 12.75 confirmed NVA/VC KIA's.

f. Battery C.

(1) Battery C remained at LZ Laramie (BS790345) for the entire reporting period and provided general support reinforcing fires to the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery and the 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery.

(2) Battery C provided the mainstay of fire support for maneuver elements operating in the An Lao Valley. The unit expended 34,400 rounds and received credit for 18.08 confirmed NVA/VC KIA's.

g. Battery C, 6th Bn, 16th Artillery.

(1) Battery C began the period providing general support reinforcing the fires of the 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery from LZ Ollie (BR912848). The battery contributed significantly to the security of the Dam Tra-O Lake area, Cey Giep Mountain area and southern Bong Son Plains. The battery expended 1212 rounds in a 24 hour period on 5 September 1967 when supported maneuver units were in heavy contact.

(2) Battery C started a road march south for Tuy Hoa on 17 September 1967. On the same day the battery boarded an LST at Qui Nhon and on 18 September proceeded to Vung Ro Bay. The battery debarked and marched by road to Phu Hiep on 19 September 1967 and was immediately heli-lifted to LZ Basin (BQ954503) to reinforce the fires of the 3d Battalion, 319th Artillery supporting the 173d Airborne Brigade in Operation BOLLING. On 29 September 1967, the battery heli-lifted to LZ Peak (BQ983384), where it has remained until the present.

(3) During Operation BOLLING, the battery was under operational control of the 6th Battalion, 32nd Artillery. From 1 August 1967 to 31 October 1967, Battery C expended 19,342 rounds and received credit for no confirmed NVA/VC KIA's.

4. (C) Logistics.

a. The logistical support provided by Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery was geared to aerial resupply during the first two months of the period. It was necessary in August to support all three organic batteries by air from two different supply points. Supplies were drawn primarily from the forward support element of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, a 1st Logistical Command forward task force located at LZ English, and from the Qui Nhon depot. The battalion

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was required to draw and air lift 4733.7 tons of supplies to batteries located in helicopter supported landing zones during this reporting period.

b. Hot noon meals were prepared in the battery positions from B and C rations, supplemented by small amounts of A rations delivered on a daily basis. The evening meal was prepared from A rations at the battalion base area and heli-lifted to the batteries in insulated containers along with ingredients to prepare an A ration breakfast.

5. (U) Civil Affairs. The battalion continued with its MEDCAP II Program in the Qui Nhon and Bong Son areas during the period and treated approximately 2300 Vietnamese patients. In September, the battalion initiated a program of providing English language instruction to the Trinh Vuong Catholic school in Qui Nhon. A program to provide medical and sanitation assistance, and area improvement to the Go Thi Orphanage in Qui Nhon was started in October.

6. (C) Personnel.

a. Personnel losses and gains from 1 August 1967 to 31 October 1967 are as follows:

OFFICERS	
<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>GAINS</u>
MAJ - 2	MAJ - 1
CPT - 10	CPT - 8
LT - 9	LT - 13
WO - 2	WO - 2
TOTAL 23	24
ENLISTED	
<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>GAINS</u>
E7 - E9 - 8	E7 - E9 - 9
E1 - E6 - 144	E1 - E6 - 61
TOTAL 152	70

b. Awards and Decorations. The following awards and decorations were approved during the period:

- (1) Soldier's Medal - 1
- (2) Bronze Star with "V" Device - 1
- (3) Bronze Star - 17

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- (4) Air Medal - 10
- (5) Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device - 1
- (6) Army Commendation Medal - 17
- (7) Purple Heart - 3

SECTION II (C) COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)

1. Fire Direction Proficiency.

a. Item: Maintaining proficiency in manual computation of firing data.

b. Discussion: When the FADAC is adopted as a primary means of computing firing data it is necessary to institute a training program which will maintain a manual proficiency in the battalion and battery fire direction centers. Mechanical failures cause excessive delay in firing when current registration data, deflection correction scales, meteorological correction, and other items required for graphical and computational solutions are not kept current. It is imperative that FDC personnel retain manual proficiency and the ability to revert to manual computation without delay.

c. Observations: At least 25 percent of all missions should be computed manually in a time frame which overlaps shifts in both the battalion and the battery fire direction centers. GFT's and defensive targets must be updated with subsequent meteorological data to insure accuracy and speed in the delivery of fires in the event of FADAC breakdown.

2. Maintenance of FADAC.

a. Item: FADAC repair parts.

b. Discussion: When the FADAC was introduced, repair parts were not available from the battalion's PLL or the direct support unit's ASL and back-up stockage. Long delays have been encountered waiting for needed parts. The dead-line rate could have been greatly reduced if the authorized parts had been on hand. Pre-positioning of parts at the major support command in Vietnam would have substantially reduced the problem. Parts lists, back-up parts, and PLL's should be released to the direct support unit upon distribution of a new major item of equipment. The direct support maintenance unit can distribute the PLL to the using unit. The PLL should be based on initial stockage with additions based on demand data created during tropical testing or usage.

c. Observations: Lack of repair parts hinders the accomplishment of a mission using newly-introduced equipment. Positioning of complete PLL's and direct support maintenance parts would greatly facilitate the introduction of new equipment.

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3. Survey Requirements.a. Item: Firing with low visibility.

b. Discussion: Situations have been encountered in which low visibility has completely obscured aiming posts with lighting devices and has made collimators difficult to see. Conditions of this type make laying the battery nearly impossible using conventional means. By establishing a survey point with control for direction in each gun pit, the howitzers can be laid and safety checked during the most severe weather.

c. Observations: Poor visibility caused by clouds obscuring hill top fire bases has occasionally threatened our ability to lay the battery. The proposed method is much slower than conventional means but it provides for accurate firing under almost any circumstances.

4. Trail pits.a. Item: Expedient reinforced trail pits.

b. Discussion: Loose soil and heavy rains cause serious problems of howitzer displacement and difficulties in digging out the trails when high charges are fired. The construction of a 6400th trail pit with the outer wall lined with pierced steel planking greatly reduces piece displacement and facilitates shifting of trails. The trail pit is dug two feet deep by two feet wide. The outside wall of the pit is lined with PSP, anchored and reinforced with six-foot engineer stakes. Projectile pallets for 155mm rounds make excellent shoring between the trails and the PSP to prevent the trails from hooking on the PSP. The firing platform area should be crowned and powder canisters can be installed as a drainage system for the trail pit. Experience has shown that upwards of twenty-five charge 7 rounds can be fired with as little as one mil displacement using the reinforced trail pit.

c. Observations: When soft earth and muddy conditions exist, this system will provide adequate shoring to prevent displacement and greatly aid in shifting trails.

SECTION II (C) COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Part II. Commander's Recommendations.

1. (U) Maintaining proficiency.

a. Reference Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned) maintaining proficiency in manual computation of firing data.

b. I recommend this procedure to insure that fire direction personnel remain proficient in manual computations of firing data.

2. (U) FADAC repair parts.

a. Reference Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned) FADAC repair parts.

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b. I recommend that sufficient repair parts be issued along with any new items of equipment or that they be made available in the area of deployment.

3. (U) Firing.

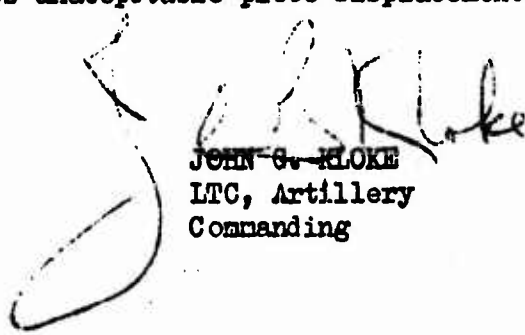
a. Reference Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned) firing with low visibility.

b. I recommend this procedure to insure accurate and rapid laying of a battery during periods of limited visibility.

4. (U) Expedient reinforced trail pits.

a. Reference Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned) expedient reinforced trail pits.

b. I recommend this system of reinforcing trail pits as it facilitates shifting of trails and prevents unacceptable piece displacement.


JOHN G. HOKKE
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

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AVGK-CO (5 Nov 67)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 41ST ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96368, 11 November 1967

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force, Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350

1. (U) The attached Operational Report from 1st Bn, 30th Arty is approved and forwarded with the following comments:

a. The UIC for the organization is WA2L.

b. The number of unit days engaged in training, movement and operations was 19,, 6 , and 67 respectively.

c. Reference Section II, Part I, para 2: Follow up indicates that depot stocks of PADAC repair parts are in country and programmed for release to Qui Nhon Depot in the near future.

2. (U) Regraded Unclassified when separated from classified document.

Approved
A.V. ARNOLD JR.
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

AVFA-AT-D (5 Nov 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(1st Bn, 30th Arty) (U)

Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350, 27 November 1967

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT, APO 96350

1. Concur in the observations and recommendations contained in basic communication and previous indorsement.

2. Reference: Section II, Part II, paragraph 1, page 6. It is recognized fire direction center personnel must be trained efficiently in both FADAC and manual fire direction computations. The percentage of missions computed manually should be determined by:


- a. The unit commander.
- b. Type of mission being conducted.
- c. Type of target to be engaged.
- d. Accuracy of fire request.
- e. The tactical situation.

3. Reference: Section II, Part II, paragraph 2, page 6. FADAC equipment was introduced in country by a contact team and not through normal logistical channels. Such initial issues are accompanied normally by a lack of repair parts in the supply system. Concur with the recommendation.

4. Reference: Section II, Part II, paragraph 3, page 7. Nonconcur. This procedure is impractical and does not establish sound artillery principles. The infinity collimator can be positioned between 12 and 48 feet from the weapons. The recommended procedure would require an aiming point closer than 12 feet thereby reducing the accuracy required.

5. Reference: Section II, Part II, paragraph 4, page 7. This information will be disseminated in a future I FFORCEV Arty Newsletter.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


DONALD L. BURTON
MAJ, Arty
Adjutant

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AVFA-GC-OT (5 Nov 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 RCS CSFOR-65 UIC WA2L 1st Bn, 30th Arty (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350 13 DEC 1967

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

This headquarters has reviewed the 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967 and concurs with the observations and recommendations of the basic document as modified by the previous indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



JAMES P. GASTON
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

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AVHGC-DET (5 Nov 67)

4th Ind (C)

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 27 DEC 1967

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery (A2LA) as indorsed.

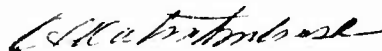
2. (C) Pertinent comment follows: Reference item concerning FADAC repair parts, page 5, paragraph 2; and page 6, paragraph 2: Concur. The following actions are being taken:

a. Coordination is being effected with WECOM and the Automatic Data Field Systems Command to ensure that repair parts for both organizational and support maintenance are issued to the using and support units prior to issue of the end item.

b. The FADAC Assistance Team, Pacific, is being informed of the repair parts problem. They are being requested to assist the unit.

3. (U) A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copies furn:

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HQ, 1st FFORCEV

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GPOP-DT(5 Nov 67) 5th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 October
1967 from HQ, 1st Bn, 30th Arty (UIC: WA2LAA) (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 18 JAN 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding
indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



HEAVRIN SNYDER
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

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